GRILL-SEARED SPEARS AND HEARTS TART UP HEARTY STEAK SALAD {page 14}

‘REAL MAN’ ANGIE’S ALL BLUSHES AS SHE GUSHES ABOUT BRAD {page 11}

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Wednesday, June 1, 2011
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▶ A fan walks to the intersection of Portage and Main yesterday morning carrying a hockey stick with a Winnipeg Jets flag on it.
See our NHL return announcement coverage on pages 3-5, and in sports, page 17.

JAMES TURNER/METRO

A fan’s mask says it all

1 news

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Does the NHL's return to Winnipeg put a dent in the hockey dreams of other Canadian cities. Video at metronews.ca

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Raccoon reluctant to leave stands to U2 fans

A raccoon believed to have considered CanadInns Stadium its wintertime home triggered a slight delay in admitting U2 fans to see the megastar Irish rockers last weekend.

A source close to the Winnipeg show's organization told Metro a large female raccoon was discovered "really high up" in a section of the stadium's stands at about 5:30 p.m. Sunday, just about 30 minutes before the section was to open.

City animal services workers were quickly called in to corral the roughly 20-pound animal and were initially successful, the source said.

However the raccoon somehow managed to escape their clutches and clamoured into some concert lighting and had to be re-trapped.

When told of the situation, U2's management was adamant the animal be treated humanely.

"It was clear that no harm was to come to the animal," the source said of the band's reaction.

The raccoon was released unharmed into a park outside the city limits, said the source.

JAMES TURNER

JAMES TURNER/METRO

▶ Members of U2 did not want the raccoon harmed.

Baseball. Skirmish

▶ Winnipeg Goldeyes manager Rick Forney argues with the umpires after a dugout-clearing skirmish between Goldeyes pitcher Chris Salamida and Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks outfielder Mike Coles in the top of the third inning of a game last night. See metronews.ca/winnipeg for results.

JAMES TURNER/METRO

Butting heads at Goldeyes double-header

Shellmouth farmers sue province over spills

Farmers claim dam has forever ruined their property
Lands have been flooded continuously since dam's construction in '70s

JAMES TURNER
@METRONEWS.CA

Farmers near the Shellmouth Dam and reservoir claim spring flood-related spillovers have become such a "continuing nuisance" that they've banded together to take legal action against the Manitoba government.

The group includes three businesses and 10 individuals who live downstream of the dam in the Rural Municipality of Shellmouth-Boulton.

The group is seeking an undisclosed amount of compensation from the province through the court system, alleging they've lost income and have suffered damages to farmland they own or lease.

The group claims in a lawsuit that the operation of the reservoir and dam leads to the flooding of their land, making it useless for growing and grazing.

This year's flood on the Assiniboine River has allegedly caused the group serious adverse consequences for their farming operations in 2011 — and the problems are "likely to persist" into 2012, their claim states.

The dam and reservoir, located at the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border, opened in the early 1970s in an effort to reduce flood risk along the Assiniboine.

The allegations have not been proven and the province has not filed a statement of defence.

The province wouldn't comment on the lawsuit, but a spokesperson said there are avenues for farmers to receive compensation as a result of flooding.

Province to act on lake

The provincial government has promised action to reduce phosphorus levels in Lake Winnipeg in light of a five-year study that shows the lake is at its tipping point.

"Phosphorus levels in the lake are now worse than they were in Lake Erie when people were describing that lake as dead," said Peter Leavitt, the man behind the study.

Conservation Minister Bill Blaikie said the government will be releasing its plan in the next few weeks to reduce phosphorus levels in the lake by 50 per cent.

High phosphorus levels will eventually lead to toxic algae blooms that will suck the oxygen from the lake. ELISHA DACEY

News in brief

Wind drives water right over dikes

LAKE WINNIPEG. Winds gusting up to 90 km/h wreaked havoc in Manitoba yesterday, especially in flood-prone areas around Lake Winnipeg and Lake Manitoba. Several homes and cottages found themselves suddenly underwater as the wind drove water right over protective dikes.

ELISHA DACEY

Urgent-care centre shut down due to sewage backup

HOSPITAL. Misericordia's urgent-care centre had to close yesterday morning after sewage backed up into the hospital.

No one was hurt or affected by the backup, but all the patients had to be either discharged or moved.

A spokesperson for the hospital said water began flooding through the sinks and toilets at about 12:20 a.m., caused by a blocked sewer main. Repairs are ongoing.

ELISHA DACEY

Boys are back: NHL en route to Winnipeg

No decision made yet on team name **NHL owners still must ratify deal**

The National Hockey League officially came home to Manitoba yesterday.

The party began after Mark Chipman, chairman of True North Sports and Entertainment, confirmed what had been widely rumoured for two weeks: His company had purchased the Atlanta Thrashers franchise and was moving it to Winnipeg for the start of the 2011-12 season.

"I'm excited beyond words," Chipman, whose group includes Canadian billionaire David Thomson, told a news conference.

No purchase price was announced, but it's believed the team was sold for $170 million. About one-third of that — $60 million — will go to the NHL as a transfer fee.

NHL commissioner Gary Bettman said the deal was up in the air just hours before the news conference.

"We, with others, were actually on a conference call at 4:30 this morning eastern time, and it (the deal) wasn't done yet."

Fans had been waiting for 15 years for the NHL to return. The franchise quit Winnipeg in 1996 and transferred to Phoenix to become the Coyotes.

The team at the time was strapped for money and was struggling to find local ownership with deep enough pockets to finance a new rink and pay the spiralling player salaries to keep the team competitive.

Fans, however, blamed Bettman, believing he and the owners were secretly conspiring to move small-market Canadian teams to establish a league footprint in the U.S. Sun Belt.

"We get to be back in a place we wish we hadn't left in 1996," said Bettman.

"It's clear that times have changed for Winnipeg as an NHL market and this is a wonderful time to add a club to Canada."

The thousands of fans watching at The Forks, though, made it clear that not all bygones were bygones.

They booed Bettman when he appeared on the large screen TV in the plaza. They chanted "Bettman sucks! Bettman sucks!"

True North and the NHL made it clear 13,000 tickets must be sold to show the NHL the city means business. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Read the full story at metronews.ca/winnipeg

JAMES TURNER/METRO

▶ NHL commissioner Gary Bettman talks to media at yesterday's press conference.

JAMES TURNER/METRO

▶ Winnipeg superfan Dancing Gabe at Portage and Main yesterday morning.

Team's return to town a 'long time coming'

Nothing like a little "white out" to fix a problem.

Thousands of fans converged on Winnipeg's downtown yesterday, many of them wearing Jets jerseys, to celebrate the return of the NHL to Winnipeg.

While the mood was celebratory, it was also relieved.

"It took so long," said James Michaels, 22. "It was up and down, and, man, I thought there for a while it would never happen. But now it has, and now I have to see if I can afford tickets."

Cody Petrash and Antony Maluzynsky wandered the barriers at Portage Avenue and Main Street for hours, the first fans to show up at the iconic Winnipeg intersection yesterday morning.

"I've been waiting for this day all my life," said Maluzynsky. "We've been waiting for this day, every day, for some NHL puck back in the 'Peg."

Winnipeg superfan Dancing Gabe said he was the happiest man in the city.

"It's been 15 long years, and I remember when they left for Phoenix, I was just heartbroken," said Gabe, who attends every single sports game in Winnipeg. "But now they're coming back, and it's been a long time coming."

But not everyone at the Forks shared the excitement. Sean Clements said he wasn't there for the announcement.

"I've never really been a big hockey fan. I checked out a few games as a kid, but ... I'm here for the music. I didn't even know this was going on today."

ELISHA DACEY/ WITH FILES FROM MORGAN MODJESKI

Celebration

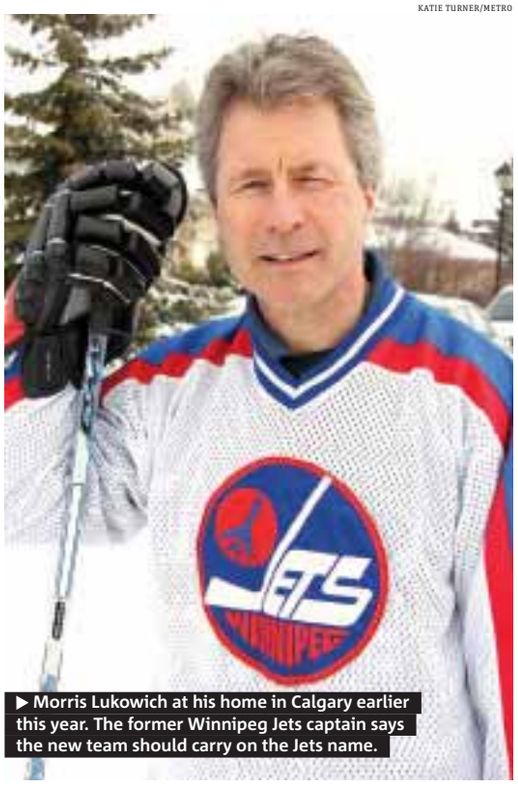
Jubilant NHL fans couldn't help but get decked out and celebrate, Winnipeg-style, yesterday after the announcement. Street hockey spontaneously erupted at The Forks and at Portage and Main. People gathered to cheer, shout, drink, and check out each others' vintage jerseys. Pictures of Mayor Sam Katz leading a conga line and an overzealous fan climbing a pole at Portage and Main in his underwear were heavily-tweeted. Mostly, everyone just had fun.

Clockwise from top Evan Klajncar, left, and Julie Ward arrive at The Forks to celebrate the return of NHL hockey to Winnipeg; Chad Kuzmack — a.k.a. Redman — is positioning himself to become a fixture at NHL games in the city; a young goalie jumps out for the ball at a street hockey game at Portage and Main; fans celebrate at The Forks with a homemade Stanley Cup; an arial shot of Portage and Main at noon yesterday; Dylan and Aiden Bridge are about to discover what it's like to grow up in a city that hosts NHL hockey.

TEXT AND PHOTOS: **ELISHA DACEY AND JAMES TURNER**

Winnipeg reaches Fever pitch over NHL return

KATIE TURNER/METRO



▶ Morris Lukowich at his home in Calgary earlier this year. The former Winnipeg Jets captain says the new team should carry on the Jets name.

‘Gotta keep the Jets name’: Lukowich

Former Winnipeg Jets captain Morris Lukowich said there’s no doubt in his mind the new NHL team should be called the Jets.

“They’ve gotta keep the Jets name in there,” said Lukowich. “Whether it’s the Winnipeg Jets or the Manitoba Jets ... there’s a tradition there.”

Lukowich said while the team may not have won a Stanley Cup, they were champions in the WHA.

“I played for a winning team,” said Lukowich from his home in Calgary. “There’s a tradition of winning there and that should be kept.”

Lukowich said the puck is now in Winnipeg’s net.

“Get out there and make it happen,” he said of the goal of selling 13,000 season tickets. “Yeah, the tickets, they’re expensive. But they’re not unreasonable.

“In Calgary, most people share tickets. You know, they can’t get out to 40 hockey games. But 10 games or something, that’s doable.”

ELISHA DACEY

An ‘emotional day’ for Halifax’s Boulton

Veteran NHLer says ‘there’s a lot to be excited about’ in move from Atlanta to Winnipeg but that he’s leaving behind a lot, too

PHILIP CROUCHER
@METRONEWS.CA

Amid the excitement of the NHL returning to Winnipeg, forgotten is the story of players set to leave a life they have built in the Georgia city.

Halifax’s Eric Boulton is one of those players.

“If you are a single guy, it’s a lot easier transition. I have a wife who is from here and kids who are in hockey and in gymnastics. The transition for guys with families, it is a big deal,” Boulton said yesterday by phone from Atlanta.

“But her and the kids will follow me wherever. That’s my job to play hockey and it’s business. We realize this stuff happens.”

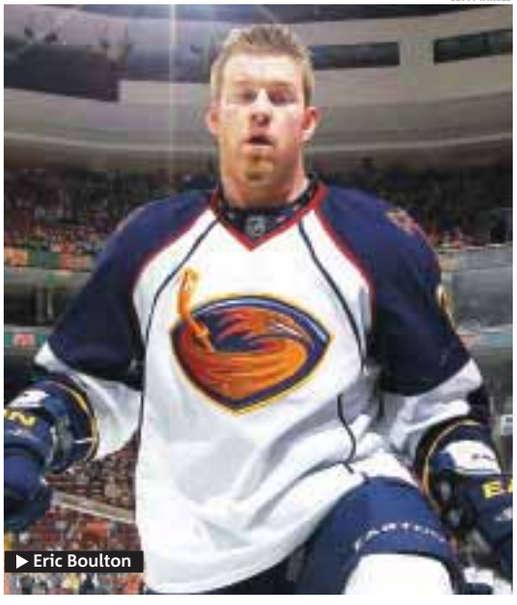
The 10-year NHL veteran and established league enforcer said he and his teammates with the Atlanta Thrashers heard for weeks rumours of a pending move to Winnipeg — although they were “kept in the dark” about most things.

Now, with the move official, Boulton called it “a lot to be excited about” and “an emotional day.”

“On one hand, we made Atlanta our home. We love the city and it’s unfortunate it didn’t work out here,” the 34-year-old said. “But on the other hand, you have to look at the positives, and going back to a Canadian city where the hockey fans are passionate — playing in front of a sold-out building every night is definitely going to be exciting.”

Boulton has played in Atlanta the past six seasons and becomes an unrestricted free agent July 1. He wants to re-sign with the team and said all indications is they feel the same way.

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Eric Boulton

“This doesn’t change (anything) at all,” Boulton said about wanting to remain with the franchise.

Reactions from Thrashers players

“It's probably going to be bigger than most guys think. I think not having (NHL) hockey there for 15 years, it's kind of built up and built up to the point where I'm sure (fans) are ready to blow the doors off the hinges and get this thing going.” — **Andrew Ladd, captain**

“Next year it's going to be hockey, hockey, hockey. I just love that. I think it's going to be awesome.” — **Chris Mason, goalie**

“It's four sports in Atlanta, and we were No. 4, I think. The people in Atlanta like baseball, they like American football. I think for hockey it's a good thing.” — **Ondrej Pavelec, goalie**

Twitter reaction from NHL players:

“Winnipeg is back, now time for the Quebec Nordiques!!!” — **David Perron, St. Louis Blues**

“I have a feeling in 9 months there will (be) a lot of babies being born in the city of Winnipeg. Welcome back Jets. Let the party begin in Canada.” — **Paul Bissonnette, Phoenix Coyotes**

“Very excited to play in another Cdn city. Congrats Winnipeg!” — **Taylor Hall, Edmonton Oilers**

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PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/FOR METRO

▶ Mario Livich, owner of ShowTimeTickets.com, with much-coveted tickets for the Stanley Cup Finals.

TICKETS TO THE FINALS ARE HOT, HOT, HOT

JEFF HODSON
@METRONEWS.CA

HOME ICE ADVANTAGE

With Game 1 of the Stanley Cup finals beginning tonight in Vancouver, the hottest ticket in town is so blistering hot it's searing holes in people's wallets.

Scalper tickets for tonight and Saturday's game are $600 to $1,000 and will run higher as the series continues.

This was the pitch from one poor sap selling his Game 2 cheap seat for $450 on Craigslist:

"I am unable to go because I have to go to a (expletive) piece of (expletive) musical with my wife (whom I love) … It's a terrible seat, you will have a terrible time at the game, the beer tastes like crap and costs $10 each. Price is firm because I don't want to sell it." JEFF HODSON IS MANAGING EDITOR OF METRO VANCOUVER

Some royal insults

Quebec parliamentarian calls visiting royals parasites ◐ Quebec government demands apology

The Quebec government demanded an apology from a legislator who compared the Royal Family to parasites and circus performers but he didn't appear to be backing down yesterday.

The remarks were made by the leader of the tiny left-wing party Quebec solidaire — who said taxpayers have no business footing the bill for the visit by Prince William and Kate.

Quebec's deputy premier said the comments from Amir Khadir demonstrate "a lack of class."

"There are a large number of Quebecers who have a lot of respect for the royal family," said Nathalie Normandeau, a Liberal cabinet minister.

But the anti-monarchist politician is refusing to take his words back.

JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Quebec Solidaire Leader Amir Khadir

Khadir, his party's only member of the legislature, went almost as far in a news conference yesterday as he did in an earlier interview with a Quebec tabloid. He stuck to his argument that the royals represent a "parasitic" system that should be obsolete in today's world.

"(Khadir) should set an example. Going after that young couple the way he has, in such a coarse way, demonstrates a lack of class and a lack of respect towards Quebec citizens."
NATHALIE NORMANDEAU, LIBERAL CABINET MINISTER

"Taxpayers should not be paying for that," he said. Reminded that the event could draw tourists, he said: "If this is a tourist attraction I would at least like it if the principals involved, the prince and the princess, knew it — knew that we're bringing them here a little bit like we do with circus tours." THE CANADIAN PRESS

More problems at Japan nuke plant

Tons of radioactive water needs to be cleaned up ◐ Further radiation tests for workers

An oil spill and a small explosion have caused limited damage — but no further radiation leaks — at the crippled nuclear power plant in northeastern Japan, the plant operator said yesterday.

Workers at Fukushima Dai-ichi plant found an oil spill in the sea near reactors five and six, which were in shutdown when the earthquake and tsunami struck March 11, Tokyo Electric Power Co. said. The spill was contained by an oil fence, TEPCO spokesman Taichi Okazaki said.

The explosion workers heard at reactor four was likely from a gas tank and did not cause any additional radiation leaks, he said.

The main problems at Fukushima Dai-ichi involve reactors one, two and three, where the fuel cores have largely melted. Scientists and government officials say the reactors are short of a full meltdown, in which the fuel breaks through the bottom of the outer container.

Workers have been fighting to get the reactors under control after the tsunami destroyed backup power generators, halting crucial cooling systems that managed the fuel temperature.

In the immediate days after the tsunami, several explosions larger than yesterday's hit the plant and scattered highly radioactive debris and puffs of radioactive particles into the environment. The plant has also leaked tons of radioactive water, which officials are promising to clean up.

Compensation

- **Also Tuesday, TEPCO said** it has finished its promised payment of preliminary compensation of 1 million yen ($11,900) for 50,000 households affected by the nuclear crisis.
- **The company said it has** started temporary compensation payments for farmers to cover their crop damages.

TEPCO has promised to bring the plant under control by January, but fears are growing that was too optimistic.

Concerns about the risks workers face there surged this week as TEPCO said two workers might have exceeded a radiation-exposure limit.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prostitutes. Protest

▶ Face-painted South Korean prostitutes wearing traditional dresses wait to participate in a rally in front of the city hall in Chuncheon, South Korea, yesterday.

AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rally against sex-work law

Hundreds of prostitutes gathered for the rally to denounce an anti-prostitution law that they say threatens their livelihoods.

Man on terror list denied child benefits

The Quebec government has told a Montreal man that he cannot receive child-assistance benefits because his name appears on a United Nations terror watch list.

It's the latest in an ongoing saga for Abousfian Abdelrazik. He spent six years in forced exile in Sudan including time in prison where he says he was tortured.

Despite being exonerated, he remains on the UN Security Council's 1267 list — which means he can't leave Canada and all of his financial assets are frozen.

It also means he can't have a bank account, can't work and can't benefit from government programs like child tax credits.

A letter from the Quebec government furnished to The Canadian Press stated that Abdelrazik cannot receive benefits for his two children as long his name appears on the UN list.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

ISTOCK

▶ Almost three quarters of the world's population now use cell phones according to the World Health Organisation.

Cellphones may cause cancer, says WHO study

- Agency estimates 5 billion people use cellphones
- That is almost 3/4 of the world's population

The cancer agency of the World Health Organization says using cellphones and other wireless devices may put people at greater risk of brain cancer, but more study is needed to be certain.

A group of 31 scientists — including two Canadians — with the WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer met in France for a week to study whether exposure to the type of electromagnetic radiation emitted by wireless devices could cause cancer.

Yesterday, the group classified radio frequency electromagnetic fields as "possibly carcinogenic to humans," based on a higher risk of glioma, a rare but often deadly form of brain tumour.

Other substances in the same category include pesticides and gasoline engine exhaust. The other categories include carcinogenic, probably carcinogenic and probably not carcinogenic.

The findings are based on data from case studies in multiple countries.

The chair of the working group, Dr. Jonathan Samet of the University of Southern California, said it's too soon to draw conclusive links between cancer and wireless devices.

The studies done so far haven't tracked people for longer than a decade or so. That's not long enough for scientists to rule out possible cancer links, since many cancerous tumours take a long time to develop.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

REPORT

System in poor health: Report

If Canada wants to improve its health-care system, it should start by better organizing the crucial information that confounds doctors, patients and administrators, says the Health Council of Canada.

The council is responsible for monitoring progress on a 10-year federal-provincial health accord that infused provincial systems with $41 billion in federal money in 2004.

In its latest evaluation the council said the system as a whole is unreliable.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

"Although there is electronic health record infrastructure for half of Canadians, many physicians are not using it in their clinical decision-making."
HEALTH COUNCIL OF CANADA

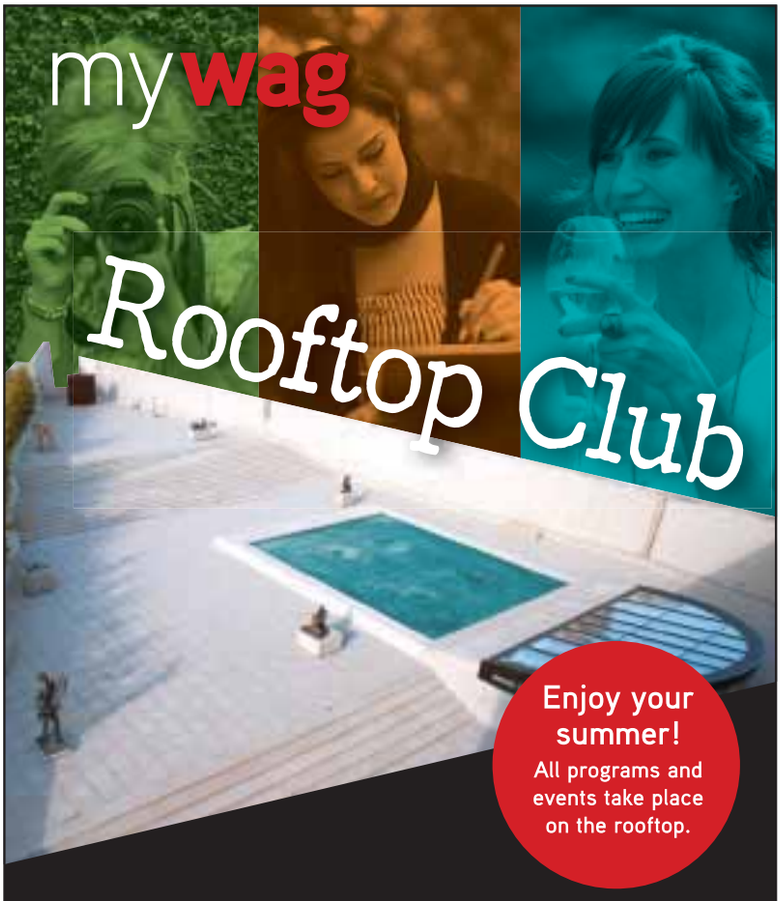
Soldier's body returns home

The body of the latest Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan has arrived home.

A military plane carrying the body of Bombardier Karl Manning, 31, arrived yesterday at CFB Trenton, in eastern Ontario.

Manning was found dead on Friday at a forward military outpost in southern Afghanistan.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Bank rates could rise

Higher inflation could boost household borrowing, experts say Strong dollar will keep import costs down

The Bank of Canada has signalled that interest rates will likely rise later this year, as long as the still-fragile economic recovery continues to build.

For the sixth straight announcement date, the central bank yesterday delayed the tightening regime it began almost a year ago and kept its trend-setting policy interest rate at one per cent.

But in an accompanying statement, the bank did alter its advisory on future action, indicating it will start moving rates closer to their normal levels if the recovery continues on track.

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Mark Carney

"To the extent that the expansion continues and the current material excess supply in the economy is gradually absorbed, some of the considerable monetary policy stimulus currently in place will be eventually withdrawn," it said.

"Such reduction would need to be carefully considered."

It's the first time the bank has signalled in an interest rate announcement that it will eventually have to raise rates, although governor Mark Carney has been warning Canadians that higher rates are coming for more than a year.

Financial markets appeared to react to the new language — the loonie jumped nearly a cent to 103.28 cents US following the release of the statement. Analysts said nothing was carved in stone.

CIBC chief economist Avery Shenfeld puts the odds of a move in July at less than 50 per cent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Economic future

- Analysts say the The Bank of Canada seems uncertain about how economic recovery will unfold.
- The bank appeared to take a darker view yesterday of the U.S. recovery and the European debt crisis, compared to its outlook in April.
- It also repeated concerns about Japan's natural and nuclear disasters.
- Supply chain disruptions from Japan will cause Canada's second-quarter growth to fall sharply, but the negative impacts will be short-lived.

News in brief

Jazz by any other name is Air Canada

AIRLINES. Air Canada's regional service Jazz will begin flying under the Air Canada Express banner starting today.

The name change is part of the airline's rebranding of all of its regional services. The first Jazz plane to be renamed will be the Bombardier Q400 turboprops, with the others to follow once other Q400s are delivered or the existing aircraft are repainted.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Wired. World

▶ A model displays the Gigabyte S1080 tablet on the opening day of Computex computer expo yesterday in Taipei, Taiwan. The show runs for five days, with sales orders projected to total $25 billion US.

WALLY SANTANA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Expo takes big 'bytes'

Computex features a record-setting 1,800 sellers, and an estimated 36,000 buyers. The mobile platform has been a huge trend for the past year, with tablets being the hottest item at the second-largest computer fest.

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar	Oil	Natural gas 1,000 cu ft	Gold contract
– 26.79 (13,802.88)	+ 0.9¢ (103.28¢ US)	+ $2.11 US ($102.70 US)	$4.666 (+ 14.8¢)	$1,535.90 (– 40¢)

Sex assault allegations at gold mine investigated

Barrick Gold Corp. says it is investigating allegations of sexual assaults against local women at one of its gold mines in Tanzania.

The company says the assaults are alleged to have taken place at the North Mara mine, which is owned and operated by Barrick's subsidiary, African Barrick Gold PLC.

The Toronto-based gold miner says that a preliminary investigation by ABG has found credible evidence of sexual assaults by members of the Tanzanian police and the company's security guards.

Barrick says local police are also probing the allegations and a senior level investigations unit will be deployed to the mine in the coming days.

The company says it is "deeply distressed" by the evidence that has emerged. Its own investigation is ongoing and the findings will be made public once the report is concluded.

Earlier this month, North Mara was the site of deadly clashes between police and a crowd of about 800 people trying to steal ore from the mine. Seven people were killed and a dozen more were injured.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Demonstrators protest recently outside the Barrick Gold Corporation's annual general meeting in Toronto.

Zero tolerance

- Barrick says any employee implicated in human rights violations or other serious criminal acts will be terminated.
- Barrick owns and operates gold mines in Canada, the U.S., Peru, Argentina, Chile, Australia and Papua New Guinea.

CHANNELLING HIS INNER CAVEMAN

JUST SAYIN' ...

PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO

Creepy news out of Silicon Valley this week: Mark Zuckerberg, the CEO of Facebook, has taken to only eating meat he kills himself.

Various online tongues are wagging: Not a big deal for a guy who has already killed MySpace. But MySpace was a bunch of bits and bytes. MySpace did not have big eyes and a little fluffy tail that wags unsuspectingly when you approach it.

Zuckerberg, demonstrating the same steely resolve he used to deal with the Winklevoss twins, went to a nearby farm in the valley and killed his own pig, chicken and goat by slitting their throats.

Oink!

This is just an extension of Zuckerberg's annual commitment to do something that stretches the Zuckerberg envelope, which is already an overweight package. Last year, it was learn Chinese. This year, it's kill defenceless domestic animals. Next year? Just hope it doesn't involve weapons of mass destruction.

"If (Mark) Zuckerberg wants to be a truly accountable carnivore, shouldn't he have to catch it, as well as kill it?"

The point, says Zuckerberg, is that "many people forget that a living being has to die for you to eat meat, so my goal revolves around not letting myself forget that and being thankful for what I have."

Easy for him to say, but I'm sure the goat would prefer an intact throat even if Zuckerberg doesn't get to feel better about himself.

Because isn't that really the point? Twenty-seven-year-old megalomaniac multibillionaire gets to feel better about himself by engaging in some kind of twee blood ritual that makes everybody else's skin crawl.

Say you're an ambitious young VP at Facebook and Zuckerberg invites you up to the farm for the weekend to kill some dinner. What do you do? Gee, Mark, sorry! Not this weekend, I have to wash my hair?

The fact is that the real difference between human beings and the rest of the animal kingdom is that only people are capable of hypocrisy. I have to admit that if I had to kill the ingredients in my chicken Caesar salad, I would become an instant vegetarian. And that probably goes for everyone else who is not a bloodthirsty software entrepreneur trying to get in touch with his inner caveman.

Even more obvious, it's simply not practical, unless they start installing do-it-yourself abattoirs at the local supermarkets, part of the trend to checking out and bagging your own groceries.

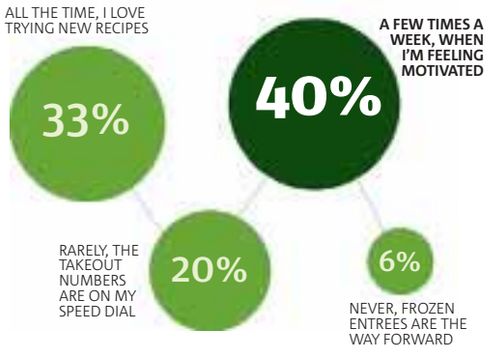
If Zuckerberg wants to be a truly accountable carnivore, shouldn't he have to catch it, as well as kill it? It's easy to prey on some poor caged animal, but imagine what a spiritual experience it would be if you had to run the poor critter down first.

A week of that and I guarantee he will be thankful if he manages to catch his dinner.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Register at metrolifepanel.ca and take the quick poll

How often do you cook?



Local tweets

- **@Bobby-pospischil:** Not gunna lie would da rather had Winnipeg get a CFL team rather than an NHL one
- **@mikepgordon:** Alright, Winnipeg. Here's ANOTHER NHL franchise for you. Try not to screw THIS one up, OK?!
- **@K_O_cowtown:** To everyone who said the #NHL would never return to Winnipeg, F**K YOU AND THE HORSE YOU RODE IN ON! #GoJetsGo
- **@KellenNitro:** Seriously, Welcome back to the league Winnipeg. Well Deserved, Let's hope a cool looking jersey, those thrasher Jerseys were horrendous #NHL
- **@katielynn906:** "the move to winnipeg has forced canadians to say something nice about bettman. and THAT, people, is news." #iloveyoucanadiannews
- **@hackettp:** Thrashers move to Canada. Winnipeg rejoices, Atlanta hardly even notices. #GoodbyeThrashers #HelloJets
- **@jstaashaught:** #nametheteam The Winnipeg Jesters. A combo of Jets and Thrashers and an ode to G-Bett's court jester style of running the league.

Worth mentioning

SAN FRANCISCO. Twitter is trying to make it quicker and easier to track the world's most interesting people on its short-messaging service.

The new shortcut is being provided by a Twitter "follow" button that can be placed on websites to highlight celebrities, athletes, reporters and other people who tweet their thoughts and share other information.

More than 50 websites already have agreed to use the new feature, which was announced yesterday.

The publishers latching on to Twitter's Follow button include AOL Inc., Yahoo Inc., The Wall Street Journal, Sports Illustrated and TV Guide.

The famous people using the feature include Justin Bieber, Jennifer Lopez and Lady Gaga, who already has the most Twitter followers at 10.6 million.

Twitter already had been offering a "tweet" button to help websites attract links to their content.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cartoon by Michael de Adder

WEIRD NEWS

Almost like speaking from beyond grave

In an effort to better relate to a younger generation, a U.S.-based headstone manufacturer has created new burial markers so visitors can learn more about the deceased and leave messages for them.

All it takes is a smartphone or mobile device and a free app.

Seattle-based Quiring Monuments lasers QR — or "quick read" — codes on black plastic and copper stickers. The code looks like a square barcode. They are then stuck on the monument.

After scanning the code on a smartphone or an app on a mobile device, like an iPad, visitors are redirected to a website built by the person's family.

Each site can be personalized with memories, comments from friends, pictures, videos, family history and a map to the grave's exact location.

"It's a way to tie together the old way of memorializing with granite headstones and the new trend of social networking, which is how a lot of people are grieving now," Jon Reece, general manager of Quiring Monuments, told the Toronto Star.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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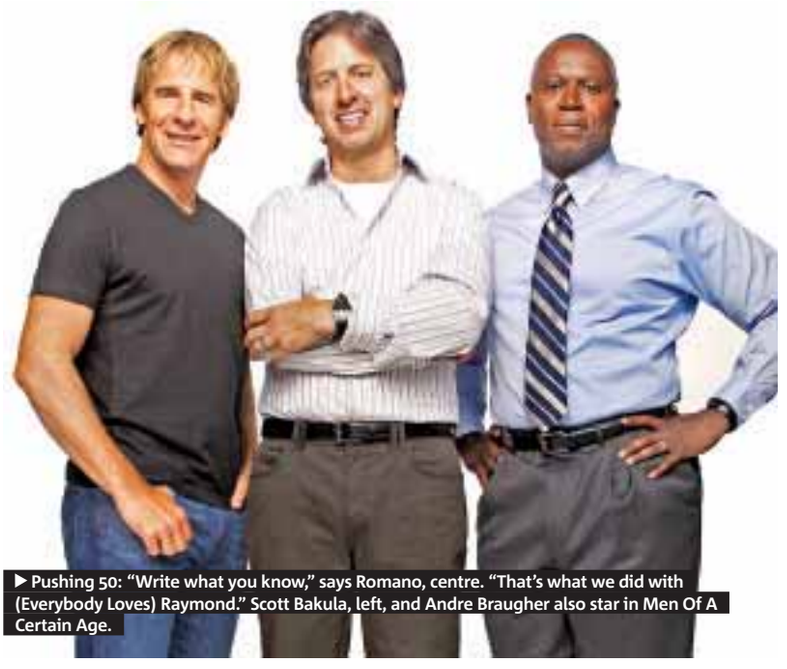
2 scene

Ray Romano matures in Men of a Certain Age

Award-winning drama deals with mid-life challenges
Has been called 'comical, poignant and harrowing'

ART STREIBER/COURTESY OF TNT



▶ Pushing 50: "Write what you know," says Romano, centre. "That's what we did with (Everybody Loves) Raymond." Scott Bakula, left, and Andre Braugher also star in Men Of A Certain Age.

On tonight's return of Men of a Certain Age, mild-mannered party-store owner Joe has a confusing brush with his ex-wife.

Terry, the failed-actor-turned-car-salesman and perennial bachelor, seems ready to settle down with his new girlfriend.

And Owen, who runs his father's struggling car dealership, makes a pivotal decision about his career.

To put it another way: There are no murders, zombies or superhuman capers. The three lifelong pals who now are coping with mid-life are such remarkably ordinary heroes for a TV series they seem downright exotic. As played by series stars Ray Romano, Scott Bakula and Andre Braugher, these guys are never larger-than-life, but instead recognizably true-to-life.

"When Raymond ended, I was on the top of the world. Cloud 9, money, free time, golf, go places! And my therapist said, 'You want to start coming twice a week?'"
RAY ROMANO

This year, Men won a prestigious George Foster Peabody award, administered by the University of Georgia and popularly known as the Pulitzer of the electronic media. The Peabody judges hailed the series as "comical, poignant and harrowing, sometimes all at once."

Receiving the award onstage last week, Romano proudly wisecracked, "I just want to say to my wife of 23 years: Maybe NOW you'll watch the show."

A few hours earlier, Romano and Men co-creator Mike Royce looked back on how their prize-winning show had come about.

A few years back, both men were feeling a bit of middle-age angst in the aftermath of Romano's hit comedy Everybody Loves Raymond, on which Royce served as a writer and executive producer.

"Right after Raymond," explained Romano, "I had a world-is-my-oyster attitude, but I found out I don't like oysters. I had this existential emptiness. 'What is my purpose? Who am I?' I had a big identity crisis."

"I had the same problem, but with less money," laughed Royce, who is now 47. So Romano and Royce began commiserating.

The character they wrote for Romano was a newly divorced father of two with a gambling problem and a job that seemed to brand him as a variation of the timeless sad clown: a man who runs a party store for whom life isn't a party.

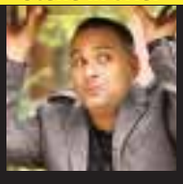
As they go along, has doing the show given Romano any personal insight about navigating his own middle age?

"I don't know," he replied, caught short by the question. "My character is still kind of grasping. He still hasn't gotten to a place of contentment." A bit like Romano? "I ask my therapist, 'Why can't I just sit back and be happy?' And he says, 'Well, first of all, I need to make a living.'"
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Critics love...

- **Men of a Certain Age** is more reflective, more nuanced and more bittersweet than Everybody Loves Raymond.
- **The drama** was duly rewarded for its special brand of normalness when it premiered in late 2009, winning critical praise and healthy ratings.

Scene in brief



Canadian comedian Russell Peters says he felt like he was "drowning" onstage during his recent gigs with Charlie Sheen in Toronto. In mid-April, Peters interviewed Sheen at Massey Hall for two nights as part of the TV star's Violent Torpedo of Truth tour. "The first night was like pulling teeth and I even told him when we got off, I go: 'Dude, you're killing me up there. You're not giving me anything.' And he goes, 'Yeah, I'm sorry man, I'm just tired.' "And I go: 'All right, whatever, but you know, if you want these shows to go well, you're going to have to help me a little bit there, kid ... a brown man is drowning up there.'"
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Snooki, fellow Jersey Shore cast member in fender bender in Italy; apparently uninjured
Scan code for story.

Global TV announces fall lineup

CTV to publicize its slate of shows tomorrow
CBC reveals its fall newbies on June 8

A new take on the British drama Prime Suspect, an animated version of Napoleon Dynamite and the return of Dave Foley and Sarah Michelle Gellar to series television are among the highlights of Global TV's fall lineup.

Global's parent company, Shaw Media, announced a prime-time roster that includes six new dramas and six new comedies.

They include a small-screen adaptation of John Grisham's The Firm; Gellar as a woman who takes over her estranged twin sister's identity in Ringer; the rookie cop drama The 2-2, executive produced by Robert De Niro; and Foley's sitcom How to be a Gentleman.

Over on specialty channel Slice, two reality show staples get a Canadian spin: Real Housewives Vancouver and Intervention Canada.

The new shows were to be detailed at a glitzy downtown presentation aimed at ad buyers.

Citytv announced its lineup Monday, touting buzzed-about series including the dinosaur drama Terra Nova and J.J. Abrams' thriller Person of Interest.

Fresh comedies include Are You There, Vodka? It's Me, Chelsea, inspired by comedian Chelsea Handler's memoir and the animated series Allen Gregory with the voice of Jonah Hill as a precocious seven-year-old.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

GLOBAL TV HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Maria Bello stars in the TV show Prime Suspect.

Gaga didn't know that she had gone bankrupt

She now tops Forbes list of most powerful celebrity with $125M net worth

Lady Gaga may have topped Forbes most powerful celebrities list with an estimated net worth of more than $125 million, but her last blow-out tour actually drove her into bankruptcy, she tells the Financial Times.

"I put everything in the show, and I actually went bankrupt after the first extension of the Monster Ball," she says. "And it was funny because I didn't know! And I remember I called everybody and said, 'Why is everyone saying I have no money? This is ridiculous, I have five No. 1 singles' — and they said, 'Well, you're $3 million in debt.'"

METRO

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ Lady Gaga.

Talking points

Jolie gushing over Pitt still

OR, PARTS OF HIM. After six years together and just as many children, Angelina Jolie can't stop gushing about Brad Pitt.

"I am very lucky with Brad," she tells the Telegraph. "He is a real gentleman, but he is also a real man's man. He's got the wonderful balance of being an extraordinary, great, loving father, a very, very intelligent man and physically he's a real man … in all things that it means," she adds, blushing. METRO

Celebrity tweets

"Finally get to eat some sushi again before I'm off to new York tomorrow. Everyone In here knows my name, I think I come eat here too often."

@PSchwarzenegger

@NathanFillion

"I just realized I collect flashlights. Weird."

@PamGrier

"My mom wants a pink scooter! Help us!

@lindsaylohan

"Tron in 3d sony tv!!!!!!! I am happy! lol xx"

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3 life

Mexico City: music to the ears, mouth and eyes

Mexico City has a fascinating culture and if anything, it's worth coming to experience just that. You cannot come here without seeing some iconic institutions such as the Anthropology and Telegraph Museum. The truth is, there is so much to see that its unrealistic you'll be able to see and do it all. Instead, you'll want to come back again and again because Mexico City is such an amazing place. Discover all sorts of gems from the pyramids of Teotihuacán to some of the most colourful markets in the world.

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For more information check out visitmexico.com

FLICKR CC JOSEPH A FERRIS III

▶ Everything is affordable, including the street music.

First time?

The first thing that you should do (there is no doubt in this) is to get on the Turibús. It only costs $8 dollars for a day and once on it you get to tour the entire city. You will need lots and lots of patience as there's so much congestion in Mexico City. In fact, it's famous for that! The good thing about this slow pace is that it will allow you to really see all the touristy attractions and monuments (turibus.com.mx).

▶ Turisbus

Been there before?

I love taking the time to walk around the museums and browsing through the exhibitions they have on. I would recommend visiting the Object Museum in Colima 145 (Colonia Roma). It has many interesting things to look at if you like the design of it. Another great thing you should do is go to the brand new Soumaya Museum (Lago Zurich 245, Colonia Ampliación Granada, soumaya.com.mx). The museum is one of the most artsy and decadent to open in the city and there is no entry fee.

Stay in

Staying at Hotel Condesa DF on Avenida Veracruz 102 is a great choice. It's a classic building and a top boutique hotel in that area. (From $150, condesadf.com)

Go out

For fun drinks and awesome music I head downtown. I love going to La Opera (Av. 5 de mayo 10) a little too much! Their cocktails are so cheap, $5, so really it's a done deal. Nuevo Leon Street in La Condesa is also heaving with pubs. Try the mezcal at The Dancers in Coyaocán (Plaza Jardín Centenario 12).

Eat

Tacos tacos tacos! They are sold on every street corner and there is no need to explain: It's the most popular street food. And it's so cheap: for $1 you can eat two beef, bean or chicken tacos. One restaurant to taste some of the best Mexican fusion food is Monte Cristo. (Insurgentes Norte 1980 and its website is rmontecristo.com.) Their dishes (toasted bean soup and chorizo tortilla or suckling pig tacos) are inspirational and delicious.

▶ Tacos

Shopping in Mexico City

In the Colonia Roma and Condesa there are so many independent and quirky design shops for you to browse through. A lot of stuff is modern but with a distinct, unique Mexican twist at the same time. One of my favourite places is '5 ° element' (Cuernavaca 79). Another place I like going to is Galería Gurú (Colima 143, gurugalleryshop.com).

Attraction featuring animatronic dinosaurs to open at Ohio amusement park. Scan code for story.

Plenty of new rides to give you a thrill

New roller coasters are going up at amusement parks all over the United States Coney Island getting its first new roller coaster since the 1920s

CEDAR POINT AMUSEMENT PARK/RESORT, FILE

▶ The new Windseeker ride at Cedar Point Amusement Park/Resort in Sandusky, Ohio.

Massive swings at Cedar Point, Kings Island, Dollywood and a Six Flags in California, plus coasters at Six Flags themed on the Green Lantern and a new Little Mermaid attraction at Disneyland are among the new attractions awaiting visitors this season at theme parks north of the border.

Cedar Point and Kings Island in Ohio, and Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park, Calif., all are rolling out a thrill ride called Windseeker, which spins riders nearly 30 storeys in the air in two-person swings that flare out and rotate around a tower.

An extremely wet April in Ohio delayed work on the ride at Cedar Point in Sandusky and Kings Island in Mason, so they weren't ready when the parks opened earlier in May, but they're now expected to be up and running.

Six Flags parks in Vallejo, Calif., and St. Louis also are debuting monster swings. Their version, called SkyScreamer, towers 72 metres above the ground with two-person swings soaring in a 30-metre circle at 70 km/h. The ride will be lighted at night from top to bottom.

And Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., added a swing ride called Barnstormer, with two pendulum arms seating 16 passengers each. The swing takes riders to a peak of 25 metres in the air and rotates at 72 km/h. A barnyard-themed play area and pig pen water play area surround the ride.

"Creativity and innovation, which are really the foundation of the business, are alive and well in our industry, and I think the attractions that are opening illustrate that," said David Mandt, spokesman for the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions.

Roller-coaster enthusiasts will also be able to get their fix on new rides at the Six Flags parks.

Six Flags Great Adventure in Jackson, N.J., and Six Flags Magic Mountain in Valencia, Calif., are launching Green Lantern, a 15-storey stand-up coaster that begins with a 72-km/h vertical drop before rocketing riders through five inversions, including loops and corkscrews.

Green Lantern is among three new coasters at Six Flags Magic Mountain. Six Flags New England near Springfield, Mass., adds the steel coaster called Gotham City: Gauntlet Escape from Arkham Asylum, while the Dare Devil Dive coaster opens at Six Flags Over Georgia in Austell, Ga., featuring a 10-storey vertical drop. Six Flags Over Texas in Arlington marks its 50th anniversary by bringing back a faster and steeper Texas Giant coaster.

New York's Coney Island has this year opened its first new roller coasters since the famed Cyclone was built in the 1920s. Four new thrill rides in the park are known collectively as the Scream Zone.

In early June, Disney California Adventure in Anaheim debuts The Little Mermaid — Ariel's Undersea Adventure as part of a multiyear billion-dollar expansion of the park. The family-friendly ride features characters from the popular movie as riders travel on a virtual underwater journey. Disney parks in Orlando, Fla., and California are reopening the venerable Star Tours ride with a new 3-D element and Star Wars-inspired story line for the deep space flight simulator. Star Tours opened May 20 at Disney World and will open June 3 at Disneyland.

Star Wars fans get a treat at Legoland in Carlsbad, Calif., too, with Star Wars Miniland, which offers scenes from the movies made of 1.5 million Lego bricks, including depictions of Tatooine where Luke Skywalker grew up; Endor; the icy planet Hoth and the Millennium Falcon. Later in the year, in October, the world's fifth Legoland park is scheduled to open on the East Coast, on the site of the old Cypress Gardens in Winter Haven, Fla.

SeaWorld parks in Orlando, Fla, San Diego and San Antonio are introducing their first new Shamu shows in five years, environmentally themed killer whale attractions called Believe. In addition, SeaWorld San Diego opens Turtle Reef, a nearly 1.1-million-litre aquarium featuring more than 60 threatened or endangered sea turtles.

Another animal-themed attraction, Cheetah Hunt, opens at Busch Gardens in Tampa, Fla., with a cheetah habitat and roller coaster.

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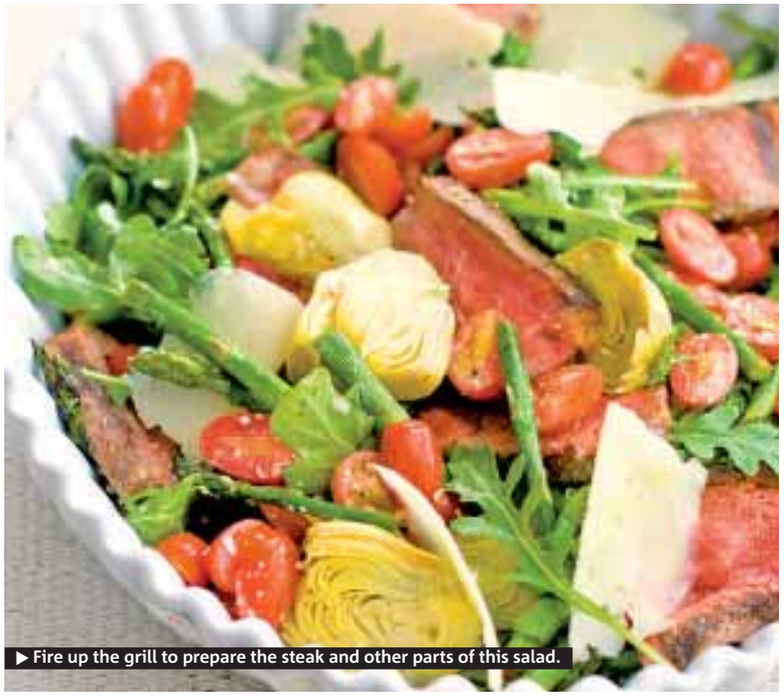
SIX FLAGS GREAT ADVENTURE

▶ This photo, courtesy of Six Flags Great Adventure, shows the Green Lantern stand-Up coaster at Six Flags Great Adventure in Jackson, N.J. The Green Lantern is a 15-story stand-up coaster that begins with a 45-mph vertical drop before rocketing riders through five inversions, including loops and corkscrews.

Infusing grilled flavours into salads

BOTH PHOTOS: MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Fire up the grill to prepare the steak and other parts of this salad.

This meal mixes grilled steak and spring veggies

Typically, we think of the grill as the way to cook the main course. But you also can take advantage of this healthy cooking technique to make other parts of the meal, including this composed salad of steak and spring vegetables. The recipe uses the grill to cook and flavour the meat, as well as many of the other components of the dish.

Ingredients:

Dressing

- 75 ml (5 tbsp) lemon juice
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) olive oil
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) salt
- Black pepper, to taste

Salad

- 500 g (1 lb) sirloin steak, 2.5 to 3 cm (1 to 1 1/4 inches) thick, trimmed of fat
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) salt
- Black pepper, to taste
- 500 g (1 lb) asparagus, bottoms trimmed
- 1 can (398 ml/14 oz) artichoke hearts, drained
- 250 ml (1 cup) cherry or grape tomatoes, halved
- 1 l (4 cups) arugula

Preparation:

1. Heat a gas grill to high or light a charcoal fire.
2. Dressing: In a blender, combine lemon juice, olive oil, Parmesan cheese, salt and pepper. Blend until emulsified. Set aside.
3. Season steak on both sides with salt and pepper. Grill about 5 minutes per side for medium rare. Remove and let rest on a cutting board for 5 minutes.
4. Meanwhile, grill asparagus and artichoke, turning occasionally, until slightly charred and the asparagus spears are tender-crisp, about 5 minutes. Remove from the grill and cut asparagus into 5-cm (2-inch) pieces and the artichoke hearts in half. Place vegetables in a bowl with cherry tomatoes.
5. Thinly slice steak across grain and add to bowl with asparagus and artichoke hearts. Toss with half of the dressing.
6. In a salad bowl, toss arugula with remaining dressing. To compose salad, place some arugula on each plate and arrange grilled steak and vegetables on top. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The classic Chinese Chicken Salad gets a healthy makeover It's ready to serve in less than 30 minutes

▶ This recipe makes four servings.

Preparation:

1. Heat a gas grill to high or light a charcoal fire.
2. Season chicken with salt and pepper. Grill until cooked through and 74 C (165 F) at the centre, about 5 minutes per side. Set aside to cool.
3. Slice both ends off oranges. Holding oranges over a bowl to collect juices, use sharp knife to remove peel and white pith. Cut orange segments from surrounding membranes; discard membranes. Set collected juice aside and place orange segments in serving bowl.
4. To bowl with reserved juice, add miso, rice vinegar, peanut oil, honey, ginger and water. Whisk until smooth, then set aside.
5. To bowl of oranges, add cabbage, bell pepper, carrots and scallions. Add two-thirds of the dressing and toss to combine.
6. Shred reserved chicken and toss with remaining dressing.
7. To assemble salads, place some of the cabbage mixture on each serving plate, top with some of the shredded chicken mixture. Garnish with chow mein noodles before serving.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients:

- 500 g (1 lb) boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) salt
- Black pepper, to taste
- 4 Valencia oranges
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) sweet white miso
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) rice vinegar
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) peanut oil
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) honey
- 5 ml (1 tsp) grated ginger
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) water
- 750 ml (3 cups) thinly shredded Napa cabbage
- 1 small red bell pepper, cored and thinly sliced.
- 250 ml (1 cup) shredded carrots
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) sliced scallions
- 250 ml (1 cup) chow mein noodles

Don't bother putting on that suit, packing your lunch or kissing the kids goodbye
It's National Work From Home Day, and you might just want to mention it to your boss

A day to keep the paperwork in your pad

JON TATTRIE
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

If you're reading this Metro in your office and notice some of your colleagues are missing today, don't fear that the rapture was just delayed – today is National Work From Home Day.

The unofficial movement toward greater workplace flexibility is driven by Workopolis, the online recruiter, and more than 75,000 Canadians have "liked" their idea on Facebook.

Andrea Garson, vice-president of human resources, says the goal is to make it an official, legislated event and for companies to develop programs that allow eligible workers to telecommute some or all of the time. Calgary already has a telework week and Ottawa is moving toward introducing tele-working options at City Hall.

"There's a reduction of stress and the ability to care for others if they have a disabled family member."
ANDREA GARSON
VICE-PRESIDENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES AT WORKPOLIS

"From a worker's perspective, there's obviously a greater flexibility in things like choosing your work hours, flexibility, working on your own terms," she says.

"There's a reduction of stress and the ability to care for others if they have a disabled family member."

It also boosts mental health to such an extent that the Canadian Mental Health Association supports the call for a work-from-home day.

ISTOCK

One day to crunch numbers on the couch could be exactly what your body needs.

For employers, it can lead to smaller office needs, happier workers, increased productivity and greater access to qualified candidates. "There's a whole group of people who are now saying this is important to them," Garson says. That includes rising talent from 20-somethings who crave flexible bosses to blend with their flexible lifestyles. Telecommuting options also help retain new parents who might otherwise quit.

Karen Scully will be among the ranks telecommuting Wednesday. She does reports for a call centre in Toronto and works from home two days per week and from the office three days a week.

"Everything is on a server and I can talk to my coworkers via MSN," she says of the ease of telecommuting.

It's great for her, as she has a four-hour roundtrip commute. Replacing that twice a week by walking to her in-house office saves her about $250 a month in gas and prevents her bad back from being agitated by the long drive. It's good for her bosses, too, as she arrives for work cheerful, rested and precisely on time. Commuters "arrive at work angry," she laughs.

"Somebody's going to make you angry driving."

Scully also never has to leave work early to catch a carpool ride and rarely misses a telecommute day.

"I don't get snow days anymore," she laments, noting that one year before she telecommuted she had to miss five days due to blizzards.

Home work

It seems that working from home isn't the fantasy scenario that some might imagine it to be.

- Approximately 2.5 million Canadians work from home at least once a week, according to an Avaya Inc study.

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4 sports

Quoted

"I think everyone wants to be able to play in Canada where they just have that passion for the game. There's a little extra pressure and attention, but for me I like that part of it."
THRASHERS CAPTAIN ANDREW LADD

Scan code for more sports news.

Now the hard part ...

NHL commissioner indicates Winnipeg must sell out arena for its team to be a success

DAVID LIPNOWSKI/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ NHL commissioner Gary Bettman answers questions in Winnipeg yesterday.

The NHL is returning to Winnipeg with a hefty price tag attached to the franchise.

There was no glossing over the harsh financial reality of operating a team in the league as the estimated $170-million-US sale and relocation of the Atlanta Thrashers was announced yesterday.

Not only did True North Sports and Entertainment spend a significant amount of time detailing the price of tickets, but NHL commissioner Gary Bettman also made it clear that every one of them better be accounted for.

"It isn't going to work very well unless this building is sold out every night," said Bettman.

The 15,015-seat MTS Centre will be the smallest arena in the NHL and Winnipeg re-enters the league at a time when it has never been more expensive to do business.

The salary cap is expected to climb for a sixth straight season in 2011-12 and could reach more than $62 million. If that were to happen, every team would have to spend at least $46 million to reach the salary floor.

The Thrashers currently have $35.9 million tied up in 15 players for next season. There are seven pending restricted free agents — included captain Andrew Ladd and defenceman Zach Bogosian — and another three players eligible for unrestricted free agency.

All told, the payroll could exceed $50 million.

Decisions must also be made about the entire hockey operations staff, including general manager Rick Dudley. He signed a four-year contract extension in January but won't necessarily make the move north.

"We have got a lot of work to do," said Winnipeg co-owner Mark Chipman. "I have a very high regard for Rick, (but) haven't spoken to him and expect to do so very shortly."

In the meantime, True North is asking fans to open their wallets and show support for the new franchise. Tickets will range in price between $39 and $129.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Name game

The league owns the rights to the Jets name and Winnipeg can have it if they want it, said commissioner Gary Bettman.

- Bettman says the new owners will decide whether they want to revive the Jets or look to a new era when it comes to the name.
- True North doesn't expect to waste a lot of time before choosing, said Jim Ludlow, president and CEO.

Future of Moose captain uncertain

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Nolan Baumgartner

It was a bittersweet day for the Manitoba Moose's Nolan Baumgartner.

The captain of the American Hockey League team had mixed emotions when he heard the official news the NHL is returning to Winnipeg.

While he was happy for hockey fans and the owners of the new as-yet unnamed team, he knows his future will never be the same.

"For myself and my wife, we're a little sad because there's a very good chance I won't be playing hockey in Winnipeg next year," Baumgartner said from California, where he's vacationing.

The 35-year-old defenceman lives in Winnipeg and has played seven of his 15 pro seasons for the Moose. His contract with the Vancouver Canucks, the parent club of the Moose, is up and he becomes an unrestricted free agent on July 1.

True North Sports and Entertainment, which bought the Atlanta Thrashers yesterday with plans to relocate the team to Winnipeg, also owns the Moose.

True North president Jim Ludlow said the Moose will become the AHL farm club of the new Winnipeg NHL team.

"There's always a relationship with a National Hockey League parent and an affiliate in terms of developing players," Ludlow said. "So we already own an AHL team and there would be no reason we would dispose of it."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

But will they be any good?

- High draft picks in recent years have brought a young, talented core to the Thrashers
- Last season's strong first half has some optimistic the team is ready to take the next step

Lots of youthful potential, but not much history of winning is what Winnipeg will get when the defunct Atlanta Thrashers move in next season.

Andrew Ladd, Evander Kane, Dustin Byfuglien, Tobias Enstrom and Ondrej Pavelec are the top names on the Atlanta club that finished 12th in the NHL Eastern Conference at 34-36-12 last season.

They ranked 29th in the 30-team league in goaltending, conceding a conference-high 269 goals, and had a mediocre attack that ranked 11th in the conference with 223 goals in 82 games.

The Thrashers made the playoffs only once in their 11 years in Atlanta. That was in 2006-07 when they were swept by the New York Rangers and outscored 17-6 in the four games.

General manager Rick Dudley, if he is kept, has cap room for free agent signings and says he wants to add a scorer and a defenceman.

Here's a look at the new Manitoba/Winnipeg team:

KEVIN C. COX/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Ondrej Pavelec

Goaltenders

The 23-year-old Pavelec had a scary moment early in the season when he fainted during a game and was taken to hospital for tests, but he came back to play 58 games with a 2.73 goals-against average and a .914 save percentage. He is considered among the league's most promising young goalies. His backup, 35-year-old Chris Mason, had a weak 3.39 average and .892 save percentage in 33 appearances.

JIM MCISAAC/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Dustin Byfuglien

Defencemen

They can move the puck and shoot with Enstrom, Byfuglien and Zach Bogosian, and have decent defensive players in Johnny Oduya, Ron Hainsey and deadline acquisition Mark Stuart. Byfuglien tore up the league early after he was acquired from the Stanley Cup champion Chicago Blackhawks but was quiet in the back half in 2011. He finished second on the Thrashers in team scoring with 20 goals and 53 points.

SCOTT CUNNINGHAM/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Andrew Ladd

Forwards

The top line had Bryan Little at centre between Ladd and Blake Wheeler, who was picked up with Stuart from Boston in the Rich Peverley deadline deal. Ladd led the team with 29 goals and 59 points.
On the second line, young Alexander Burmistrov centres Evander Kane and veteran Nik Antropov. The third and fourth feature Rob Schremp, Anthony Stewart, Eric Boulton, Chris Thorburn, Ben Maxwell and others.

SCOTT CUNNINGHAM/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Former Thrashers stars Dany Heatley, left, and Ilya Kovalchuk

History

Bad luck and some big moves have marked the Thrashers' history. Dany Heatley's car accident, which killed teammate Dan Snyder, led to the winger being traded in 2005 to Ottawa for Marian Hossa. Ilya Kovalchuk, the first-overall pick of 2001, turned down a contract offer and was traded to New Jersey in February 2010. High-profile draft picks like Patrick Stefan and Kari Lehtonen never worked out.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL's return to 'Peg really a reincarnation

The Winnipeg Jets made a habit of defying death.

How else to explain a tear-filled rally known as "the Funeral" that was held a full year before the franchise actually left town? Even as fans filled Winnipeg Arena to mourn what they believed was the imminent departure of their beloved NHL team in May 1995, a handful of people participating in the ceremony were carrying a secret.

"We actually had a pretty strong inkling that afternoon as it was going on that things were happening to keep us for one more year," said John Paddock, the Jets general manager at the time. "It was strange. The arena was full and everybody was in white and there was stuff going on downtown with socials and parades and people with their piggy banks."

It was the kind of scene that hasn't played out in any of the other eight cities that lost a NHL team during the past 35 years.

Fans were sobbing in the packed arena on a warm May day while members of the organization took turns paying their respects at the microphone.

"It was an emotional thing, a very emotional thing," recalled Paddock. "It was just like disbelief."

It's a feeling some Winnipeggers have been re-acquainted with after yesterday's announcement of the NHL's return.

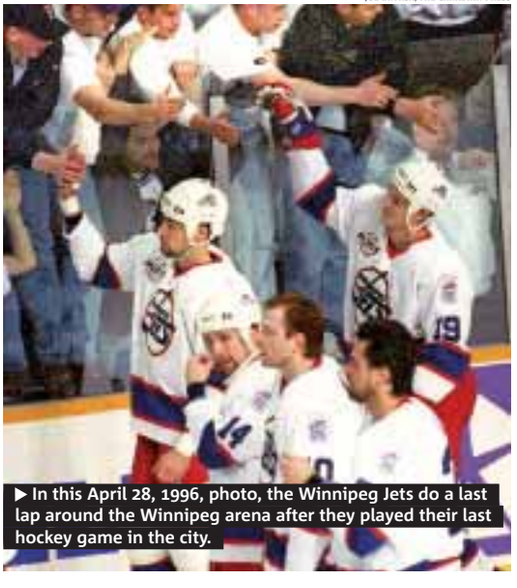
Even though the Jets did eventually die, moving south to become the Phoenix Coyotes prior to the 1996-97 season, the manner in which they left never totally extinguished hope for a return.

Fuel shortage

The economics of the era doomed the Jets.

- Rising player salaries, a slumping Canadian dollar and an outdated arena conspired to keep a local suitor from stepping forward and buying the team from then-owner Barry Shenkarow and his partners.

JOE BRYKSA/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ In this April 28, 1996, photo, the Winnipeg Jets do a last lap around the Winnipeg arena after they played their last hockey game in the city.

The bond between the city and its team was stronger than most. Winnipeg was the NHL's second smallest market behind Edmonton at the time of the departure and players were always made to feel part of the community.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL in ATL ends in yet another relocation

First, the Flames. Now, the Thrashers.

Atlanta has become the first city in the NHL's modern era to lose two hockey teams.

"Our objective was always to find a solution to keep the team in Atlanta, and we spent a considerable amount of time, effort and resources trying to do so," said co-owner Bruce Levenson. "This is not the outcome we wanted and it's extremely disappointing that a buyer or significant investor did not come forward that would enable us to keep the team in Atlanta."

The deal is reportedly worth $170 million US, including a $60-million relocation fee that would be split by the rest of the league.

The Thrashers entered the league in 1999 as an expansion franchise, but ownership problems, a losing team and dwindling attendance doomed the club.

The team ranked third last in the NHL this season with attendance of less than 14,000.

For weeks, the two sides had been working through complex legal details on the sale and relocation of the team.

Bettman said the league didn't want to leave Atlanta but had little choice.

"No real local purchasers emerged," he said. "When the Atlanta ownership made it clear they wanted out, we reached outside the Atlanta market."

Atlanta Spirit, which also owns the NBA's Atlanta Hawks and the operating rights to Philips Arena, had been trying for years to sell the hockey team.

"We don't like to move a franchise," Bettman said. "We're not happy about leaving Atlanta. This was never about whether Winnipeg is better than Atlanta. The decision to come to Winnipeg was only made after the Atlanta ownership made the decision they were going to sell, even if it meant the team was going to leave Atlanta." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Vancouver Canucks, from left, Ryan Kesler, Aaron Rome, Henrik Sedin and Alex Burrows battle during practice yesterday.

A glitch in feel-good tale for Canucks

Injured Malhotra misses final tune-up before Game 1 of Cup final

Now, you see him. Now, you don't.

Vancouver Canucks centre Manny Malhotra's inspirational comeback was put on hold yesterday, raising questions about whether he will be able to compete in the Stanley Cup final against the Boston Bruins.

Malhotra, recovering from a career-threatening eye injury suffered in mid-March, was conspicuous by his absence as the Canucks held their last full practice before tonight's Game 1 (CBC, 7 p.m.).

"He gets monitored every day and today was a day they (medical staff) felt that it would be best to stay away for today," said Vancouver general manager Mike Gillis. "He'll be back around the team again (today), we anticipate."

The 31-year-old Mississauga, Ont., native returned to practice recently after undergoing a number of surgical procedures to save his vision, fuelling speculation that he would be ready for game action as the Canucks compete for a first Stanley Cup in their 40-season history.

But Gillis raised doubts about the possibility of him returning in time to suit up against the Boston Bruins.

"He hasn't been cleared to play yet," said Gillis. "He's cleared for some contact."

"When he's cleared to play and play in the NHL, you'll see him with the team again. Until that point, we'll take it day by day and monitor it day by day."

CANUCKS GM MIKE GILLIS ON MANNY MALHOTRA

The general manager's comments contradicted those of Canucks coach Alain Vigneault, who said Saturday that Malhotra had been officially cleared to play. Vigneault did not differentiate between practices and games.

Gillis said that Malhotra had not suffered a setback.

"No, it's part of the ongoing plan he's had from the date of the injury," said Gillis.

The veteran centre was injured as a puck deflected into his eye off the stick of St. Louis Blues defenceman Erik Johnson.

The Canucks announced shortly after Malhotra went down that he was out for the season. He underwent surgical procedures and stayed around the team while dodging reporters and contributing with video analysis, pep talks and other preparations.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ROOKIE CAMP

First action for CFL's new crop of talent

Scott Mitchell will be reporting to the Edmonton Eskimos' camp on time.

The second overall pick in this year's CFL Canadian college draft has signed a contract with the Eskimos. That means the six-foot-five, 295-pound Rice University offensive tackle will take part in drills today when Edmonton and all other league teams open their rookie camps.

Eskimos rookie head coach Kavis Reed announced the move yesterday, adding the 21-year-old Montreal native, who grew up in Ottawa, will be given the opportunity to start.

"We're fully expecting him to come in and compete," Reed said during a conference call. "We know we have to be judicious in how we push him in terms of whether or not he's able to start.

"It's our expectation that he competes for a starting position but we also want to be very prudent about how we develop him."

Edmonton also signed receiver Nate Coehoorn, the fifth-overall selection.

The signings of Mitchell, who was this year's top-ranked draft prospect, and Coehoorn come after the Winnipeg Blue Bombers came to terms Monday with linebacker Henoc Muamba, the first overall selection.

Earlier, receivers Anthony Parker (No. 3 to Calgary) and Marco Iannuzzi (sixth overall to B.C.) signed with their respective clubs. That leaves pass catcher Jade Etienne (fourth overall to Winnipeg) as the lone first-rounder yet to sign, though he's expected to do so prior to the start of the Bombers' rookie camp.

Neither Tulsa offensive lineman Tyler Holmes (No. 7 to Toronto) nor kicker Brody McKnight (No. 8 to Montreal) have signed as they're both returning to school this fall.

Veterans report for medicals Saturday with full training camps opening Sunday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

World Cup qualifier may be last for Canadian stalwarts

After more than a decade with Canada's national soccer team, Kevin McKenna and Dwayne De Rosario have come to know disappointment all too well.

They're mainstays with the Canadian team, but neither has reached the World Cup.

And the 31-year-old McKenna and 33-year-old De Rosario know time is running out.

"I think it will be my last shot at a World Cup qualifying. There is a bit (of urgency), I'm not 21 anymore," said McKenna, a central defender for FC Koln in Germany. "It's always been a dream of mine as a kid and if we were to make it, it would definitely really be a highlight to my career."

The Canadians have gathered for camp in Toronto ahead of the CONCACAF Gold Cup tournament. World Cup qualifying is in September. They host Ecuador in a friendly tonight at BMO Field in Toronto.

Canada has made just one World Cup appearance — in 1986 — failing to win a game or score a goal.

"I've had that feeling (of urgency) from a long time ago, that's one of my dreams, to make the World Cup," De Rosario said. "We really think we have the team."

McKenna, a Calgary native, has 49 caps and 10 goals for Canada and made his national team debut in 2000. Toronto's De Rosario has 56 caps and 15 goals since making his debut in 1998.

The biggest change they've seen over their long tenure with the team is the increase in Canadians playing at a high level abroad.

Simeon Jackson is one Canadian who's proven himself on one of the sport's biggest stages.

His header against Portsmouth a few weeks ago propelled Norwich City into the vaunted English Premier League. It was just one goal in an outburst that saw the 22-year-old from Mississauga, Ont., score nine times in seven games. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Engine

Honda didn't substantially alter the Civic's base 140-horsepower 1.8-litre four-cylinder engine, other than to tweak it to improve fuel economy.

However, the sporty Si coupe and sedan receive a new 2.4-litre engine that generates 201 horsepower (up from 197) to replace the previous 2.0.

That means 31 more pound-feet of torque for a much peppier drive.

Updates

The Civic coupe and sedan have evolved only modestly, compared to their previous-gen counterparts.

The rooflines are a bit more sweeping (what Honda calls a "one motion profile") and the front roof pillars are now thinner to improve visibility.

Other updates include a more attractive nose plus a general updating of the rear deck and taillamps.

Road manners

Upgrading the Civic's already decent road manners involved dialing in greater steering responsiveness, retuning the front and rear suspension for a smoother ride and enlarging the underbody's flat surface area to reduce air resistance (to improve fuel economy).

With numerous performance choices and trim levels, the Civic continues to provide a lean to loaded assortment over a price range that remains about the same as before (starting at $16,400, including delivery costs).

▶ The grille has been recut to blend in with the rest of the Honda family. More subtlety, about 2.5 centimetres have been cut out of the distance between the front and rear wheels.

Evolutionary path for Civic

MALCOLM GUNN
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WHEELBASE MEDIA

The new Honda Civic's song remains the same, but its melody just keeps on getting richer and sweeter.

The first-generation Civic that arrived for the 1973 model year was the ideal antidote for increasing pump prices (and gas rationing in the United States) that struck fear into the hearts of drivers back then.

Through the Civic, Honda showed the world that inexpensive, fuel-efficient automobiles could also be fun and desirable.

Additionally, Honda became an early proponent of environmental responsibility and conservation at a time when the Detroit-based ironmongers continued pumping out ever larger and wasteful fleets.

With each successive generation, the Civic has stayed mostly true to its original purpose and has reaped the rewards from a growing and loyal customer base.

It's clear that the ninth-generation Civic that's just now trickling into the retail pipeline (slowed due to parts shortages from the recent earthquake/tsunami in Japan) is following an evolutionary path.

There's no shock-and-awe approach to its design or technological content. Instead there's a continual effort to improve on the Civic's inherent goodness that will more likely be felt as much as noticed.

▶ The Si Coupe has very nice rear top-fender crease that gives the car some shape.

▶ The unique tiered gauges can be augmented with a supplemental 12.7-centimetre screen (top right) above the navigation screen.

4.4

Also returning is the significantly changed Civic Hybrid sedan, which Honda claims will achieve 4.4 l/100 km in the city and 4.2 on the highway, a slight improvement compared to 2011.

2012 Honda Civic

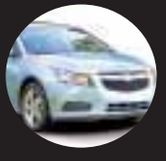
What you should know about the 2012 Honda Civic:

- **Types:** Two- /four-door compact sedan/coupe.
- **Engine (hp):** 1.8-litre SOHC I4 (140); 2.4-litre DOHC I4 (201); 1.5-litre SOHC I4 with electric motor (110, combined).
- **Transmission:** Five-speed manual; five-speed automatic six-speed manual (Si); continuously variable (Hybrid).
- **Mileage:** L/100 km (city/hwy): 7.2/5.0 (1.8, AT).

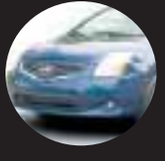
5 drive

By comparison

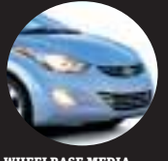
Chevrolet Cruze
Base price: $16,450
Cobalt replacement impresses with classy styling and roomy cabin.



Nissan Sentra
Base price: $16,900
Good looks plus a range of power options keep this small car in the hunt.



Hyundai Elantra
Base price: $17,300
All-new sedan makes a bold statement with great looks and fuel economy.



WHEELBASE MEDIA

Scan code for more car reviews and news

Making your Civic handle 'as good as a Porsche'

Real Tuners: It's not about sticking on a loud muffler and shiny wheels

STEVEN REIVE
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WHEELBASE MEDIA

▶ Should your tastes favour something a little exotic, there are plenty of companies that can tune your Audi R8 and Acura NSX. Comptech USA is one such company that tunes Honda/Acura vehicles ... as far as you want to go if you're willing to spend the money.

Imagine your car in a big race at a famous race track. A team of experts works around the clock, tweaking and tuning your baby until it handles and drives like never before.

It's no secret that many people, mostly young men, are spending big bucks to rev up their cars: vehicles such as the Honda Civic, Volkswagen Golf and even the new Chevrolet Cruze.

"For three or four thousand dollars, we can improve a Civic to the point where it can handle as good as a Porsche," says a representative of Comptech USA (comptechusa.com) in California.

The company specializes in high-end customizing and tuning of Honda and Acura models as well as providing racing expertise to professionals.

It's one of many companies that have developed a booming business over the past decade.

The point is simple. Companies such as Comptech take the guesswork out of doing modifications yourself.

WHEELBASE MEDIA

▶ Brembo brakes, a big name in racing, are actually finding their way onto factory cars.

You pick up the phone, tell them what you want to do, and they tell you how much it will cost to get there. And, you wind up a happy camper ... or road racer, or drag racer.

Founded as an engine machine shop about 30 years ago, Comptech made a name for itself in road racing, even working with factory-backed Honda teams.

And while most of its customers might not need their cars to come up to Indy standards, Comptech uses the same expertise and technology to tune cars for the rest of us.

At Comptech there is virtually no ceiling on price or performance.

It can be as much or as little as you like.

The owner's exact needs are addressed.

Comptech's customers range from celebrities right through to 20-somethings who just bought their first car.

Comptech designs, manufactures and installs its own aftermarket parts, specially engineered for Honda and Acura models, which are designed to maximize power without jeopardizing longevity.

Top Gear

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF WHEELBASE

1 Cruising around town or out bashing the boonies in your Jeep Wrangler with the top down sounds like mucho fun, except that you're always running the risk of losing your valuables due to wind turbulence or from bouncing over tough terrain. The C.RES cargo restraint from Smittybilt is a good way to prevent this sort of loss and look good at the same time. smittybilt.com.

2 Here's a time-saving idea for anyone having to polish vehicles, either for business or for pleasure. The rechargeable battery-powered ThumbGun polish dispenser attaches to your rotary or orbital sander and allows you dispense just the right amount of wax or polish while continuing to operate the polisher. thumbguntool.com.

3 Many folks place their trust in jack stands, wooden blocks or other items used to prop up their vehicles while they work beneath them. The Bodyguard from Creepex with its built-in protective framework has been designed to provide an extra measure of safety and comfort. **WHEELBASE**

GOOGLE WORKING ON ULTIMATE BACK SEAT DRIVER

AUTO PILOT

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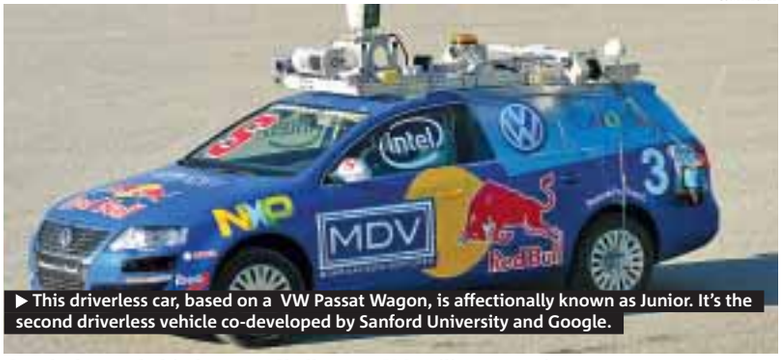
Late last year, Google revealed that a fleet of self-driving vehicles it's developing has already logged about 200,000 kilometres on public roads and streets in California.

Which begs a lot of profound questions, like… Where were the cops? … Even if driver-less technology has arrived, should we use it? … Who pays when a driverless car hits something? … And who is getting in the first one certified for public use, because it's not going to be me?

The brains behind the Google self-driving initiative is Sebastian Thrun. Before moving to Google, he was behind several Stanford driverless vehicle projects, including Stanley, the first ever-winner of the DARPA Grand Challenge, a U.S. military contest worth $2 million in grants, for a driverless vehicle that could pass several challenges in desert conditions.

CONTRIBUTED



▶ This driverless car, based on a VW Passat Wagon, is affectionally known as Junior. It's the second driverless vehicle co-developed by Sanford University and Google.

Thrun believes we should peruse driverless vehicle technology for safety reasons. In fact, he opened his talk at the TED Conference earlier this year, by saying that when his best friend died in a vehicle crash at age 18, he soon decided to dedicate his life to one day saving one million people per year from vehicle-related deaths.

Others have made this case before, that vehicles that can communicate to each other, and that are connected to a common grid of some kind, could easily be programmed to stay out of each other's way. (Most accident deaths are caused by human error.)

Thrun also believes that driverless vehicle can save much gasoline and human time. We can save gas, he says, by increasing the capacity of our current roadways "by a factor of two or three." With totally automated systems, vehicles should be able to travel very close together, and on vary narrow ribbons, or so he says. This would also get rid of gridlock, which he figures robs the U.S. of about 4 billion hours of wasted time every year.

He ended by saying that he and others are working toward, and looking forward to, a future time, "when generations look back at us and say how ridiculous it was that humans were driving cars."

Wow.

We're a long ways from that "utopia." Even if there are no technology issues, a lot of governments, legislators, citizens, etc., will have to get on board.

But I think the biggest hurdle in our lifetime is the collective memory of current drivers. The Google vehicles started life as normal Toyota Prius models. For the California tests, two engineers sat in the driver and passenger seats at all times — to monitor the computer systems linking the maps, video cameras, radars and lasers, servo-motors, etc., and for driver backup, in case of driverless driver malfunction.

I don't know how those guys did it. I rode shotgun once in a driverless car at Chrysler's proving grounds in Michigan, and it wasn't easy. I squirmed in my seat. I stared and swore at the invisible driver. I did not enjoy it.

I suppose I could have viewed it as an amusement ride, or like getting on a train. But I knew where such a train was heading — to a future where I wasn't allowed behind the wheel.

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Making tires run quietly

DRIVING FORCE

JIL McINTOSH
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Designing a tire is quite a balancing act. The tire needs to be safe, long-lasting and as fuel-efficient as possible, but it also needs to be relatively quiet to avoid excessive road noise.

Pirelli has a research and development department that deals specifically with tire noise, especially since it is headquartered in Europe where tires have to meet maximum mandated noise levels, says Mastracchio Orazio, quality product manager for Canada for Pirelli Tire.

"There are a few factors with noise, and the most predominant one is the tread design," Orazio says. "For example, a winter truck design will generate more noise than a summer performance tire. The (rubber) compound has a minimal effect. It depends on the tread design."

Tire treads are made up of blocks that contain grooves and sipes, the tiny slits in the tread face that help increase traction.

"You see more and more tires that have a modern tread design," Orazio says. "Most of them are asymmetrical or directional. You need to make sure that the pitch of the tread blocks is not the same on the left side as on the right side, because when the wind hits the tread blocks, it generates a certain level of decibels. If you space out the tread blocks, it breaks the wind noise."

Tires are tested for noise in a special "quiet" room, with microphones inside and outside the car. The vehicle is run on rollers in the floor, with the microphones picking up and analyzing the sound. The engineers work to make the tire as quiet as possible, while still working in conjunction with those who are designing the tread and assessing the tire's longevity.

If they go too far in one direction, they sacrifice at the other.

"We have to consider the safety," Orazio says. "Noise is up there, but safety is the priority."

Regulations

- Europe has strict regulations on tires, and by Nov. 1, 2012, new tires will have to be sold with their fuel efficiency, wet grip and rolling noise levels displayed at the store or in advertising materials so that consumers can compare them.

PIRELLI TIRE.

▶ A Pirelli Scorpion Verde all-season tire is pictured.

First-gen Vue appeals mainly on price

Heavy horsepower models are available

SECOND GEAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
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Intended to compete with the Honda CR-V and Toyota RAV4, the Saturn Vue entered its first generation with a unique look, two available powertrains and available All-Wheel Drive.

A high-performance Redline variant was available with enhanced styling, and a hybrid version was available, too.

Riding the same platform that housed the Chevrolet Equinox and Pontiac Torrent, Vue was powered by a 2.2-litre, 143-horsepower four-cylinder engine, or a 3-litre, 181-horsepower V6.

A five-speed manual gearbox was available for the four-cylinder engine, and automatics were fitted otherwise. A CVT transmission was available on early four-cylinder Vue models too, though shoppers are advised to avoid it. Among other things, GM canned this transmission option due to reliability issues.

Note that from 2004 and on, the V6 engine was replaced by a 3.5-litre unit from Honda, which cranked horsepower up to 270.

Look for a five-door, five-seat configuration, flexible folding rear seats and generous interior storage accommodations.

Feature content included leather seating, a sunroof, power accessories and remote access. An auto-dimming rearview mirror, satellite radio, OnStar and cruise control were also available.

What's the 4-1-1

- **Model:** 2002-07 Saturn Vue
- **Vehicle type:** Crossover
- **Price:** $2,500 to $14,000

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ 2006 Saturn Vue

What Owners Like

Owners of this generation of Vue typically praise its easy driving character and flexibility, as well as styling.

What Owners Dislike

Complaints tend to deal with cramped rear seats, cheap interior parts and a noisy ride and suspension.

Common Issues

Other issues are numerous, and test drivers set on a Vue for its lower-than-average price and unique styling are advised to have a full mechanical inspection by a Saturn-trained mechanic.

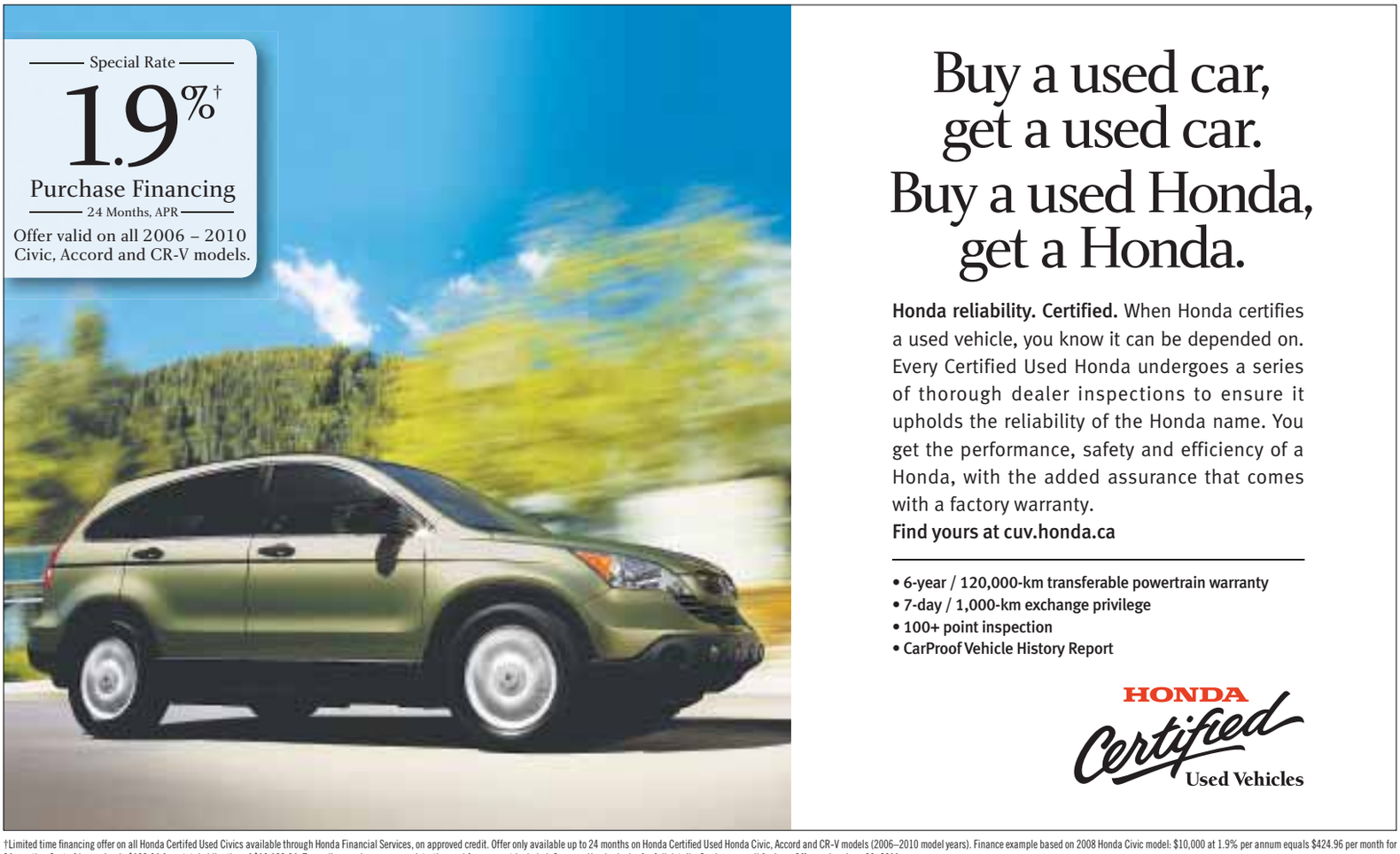
A full inspection of the AWD system (if so equipped), as well as a "scan" of the engine computer for signs of bad sensors is an ideal starting point.

Many owners have reported sensor and wiring-related problems, meaning a full check of all electronic accessories should be considered mandatory, too. Ditto the transmission. If the Vue you're test driving hesitates, slips or "clunks" during gear shifts, move to another unit. Note that the Vue also seemed prone to bearing-related issues with wheel-bearings and carrier bearings for the driveshaft in the AWD system.

The Verdict

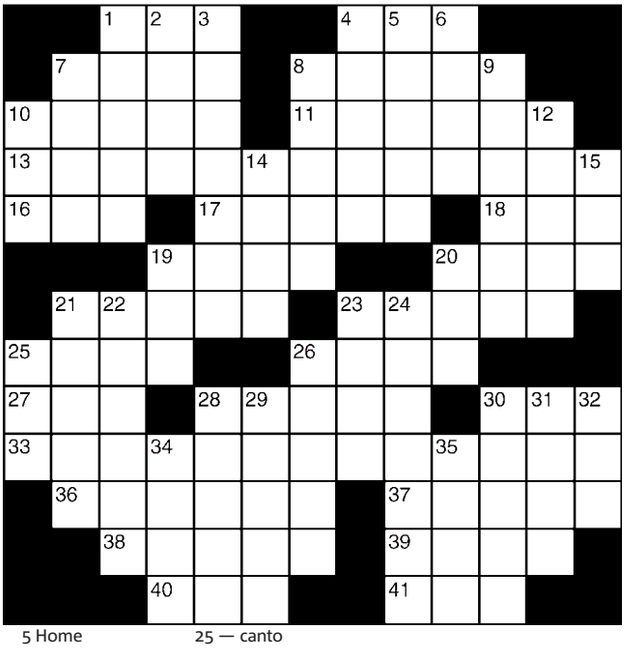
To avoid potential headaches and reliability issues, a front-drive, four-cylinder unit with the five-speed manual is likely your best bet. If you're not dead-set on a first-gen Vue and can spend a little more money, more reliable models are available.

Check out Justin's video car reviews online at youtube.com/mr2pritch.



†Limited time financing offer on all Honda Certified Used Civics available through Honda Financial Services, on approved credit. Offer only available up to 24 months on Honda Certified Used Honda Civic, Accord and CR-V models (2006–2010 model years). Finance example based on 2008 Honda Civic model: $10,000 at 1.9% per annum equals $424.96 per month for 24 months. Cost of borrowing is $199.04 for a total obligation of $10,199.04. Taxes, license, insurance, registration and fees are not included. See your Honda dealer for full details. Dealer may sell for less. Offer expires June 30, 2011.

Crossword



Across

1 "— the season ..."
4 Perched
7 Understand, slangily
8 Tennis player's sore spot
10 Dish
11 Illinois city
13 Events of 7/29/81 and 4/29/11
16 Type squares
17 "— Foolish Things"
18 401(k) alternative
19 Old World deer
20 Singles
21 Dracula, e.g.
23 Mirror's offering
25 Use the oven
26 Use a teaspoon
27 Geological period
28 Weeps loudly
30 Lawyers' org.
33 No traitor
36 Smoothly, in music
37 Battery terminal
38 Twelve
39 Sorts
40 Teut.
41 Easter-egg preparation

Down

1 Cafeteria stack
2 Greek vowel
3 Kadiddlehopper portrayer
4 Coasters
5 Home
6 Actress Spelling
7 Latch (onto)
8 Tools for duels
9 — and dining
10 Opposite of post-
12 Coincide
14 Sharpen
15 Airline to Stockholm
19 Regret
20 Rowing need
21 Christmas song
22 Accepted
23 "— have to do"
24 Lost
25 — canto
26 Faint
28 Fire
29 Subsequently
30 Heard the alarm
31 Foundations
32 Exist
34 Enthusiastic, plus
35 Sans siblings

▶ Yesterday's answer

Sudoku

3	2		1				7	4
4	9		7		8	1		
		5			2			6
9						8	4	
6			8		9			2
	8	1						7
5			6			4		
		3	9		5		6	1
7	6				3		5	8

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, at metronews.ca/kiss.

Muack, Sorry I'm such a butt sometimes. You are the greatest person I have ever met. You make me feel so perfect! I love you! Don't forget that :) <3 **HONEYBEE**

My Pato, PVMC, I love you so much, you are the most amazing person. You are so beautiful, the best part of my day is getting to be with you. I am the Luckiest guy in the world to have someone like you. I cant imagine what i would be doing without you in my life. Love, Jonny **EL DUCKO**

My Hubby, We know it must be true love if even after 18 world wars, we're still walking together hand in hand.. and behind every "I hate you" said, is an "I'm madly in love with you" hidden. No more hidden messages though because I want the whole world to know how much I love you..
YOUR ASIAN BEAUTY

A look at the weather

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Min 7°	Min 12°	Min 7°
Max 18°	Max 20°	Max 23°

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Jenna Khan, Weather Specialist
"Weather impacts everything we do. Providing the information you need before you head out that door and take on the day is the best part of my morning." **WEEKDAYS 6AM**

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and horoscopes: metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 No matter how well you talk, you'll also have to be hands-on.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Today's solar eclipse will reward you in ways you may not have been expecting.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Do something dramatic today, something that will make the world sit up and take notice.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 There's something important you need to deal with before you moving on to bigger and better things.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Today, you will wonder why everyone is being so nice to you but don't let it get out of hand. You're appreciated.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Let someone in a position of power know you are ambitious and you will be moving up in the world.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 What do you dream of doing more than anything else? Do it — right now.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 By all means, go on the offensive today, especially where money matters are concerned.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 You may get angry with people who think and act lower than you but nagging them won't change it.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You will work extremely hard over the next 24 hours. Push yourself above and beyond your usual limit.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Relationships and affairs of the heart will benefit from the eclipse.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. You'll deal with a grievance, but it shouldn't be too much for your caring nature. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

MATTHIAS SCHRADER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIKE CARLSON/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WIN!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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